

REMARKS

Claims and 1 and 5-7 are pending in the present applications, claims 2-4 having been cancelled. The Office Action and the cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Abbott (U.S. patent 6,671,808) in view of Plyler (U.S. patent 5,145,402).<sup>1</sup> Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Abbott and Plyer in view of Wu (U.S. patent 6,533,534). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites an information means including, a universal serial bus connector having a plug portion for connection to an external terminal, and a plurality of contacts mounted therein and extending to the plug portion for the contact of the external terminal to which the plug portion is connected for transmission of a signal, an electric device connected to the connector for data storage and transmission, the electric device having a circuit electrically connected to the contacts, a waterproof member surrounding the connector around the electric device and tightly engaged in all gaps in the connector around the contacts and the connection area

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<sup>1</sup> The first paragraph of the rejection on page 2 indicates that claims 1-7 were rejected. However, claim 5 is not discussed in the body of the rejection and is rejected separately in paragraph no. 3 on page 3 of the Office Action. Clarification is respectfully requested if this rejection is maintained.

between the contacts and the electric device. The waterproof member is made of a material that blocks the transfer of heat energy, and has an inner layer surrounding the electric device. The information means also includes an outer layer surrounding the waterproof member and a part of the connector and the whole area of the electric device. The electric device comprises a light-emitting element. The waterproof member is a transparent member surrounding the electric device. The outer layer has a light guide mounted therein and connected to the waterproof member for guiding light from the light emitting element to the outside of the information means. The light guide is located outside the waterproof member. This is not taught, disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record.

The Office Action alleges that Abbott teaches all of the features of claims 1-4 except the waterproof member as recited in claim 1. The Office Action cites to Plyler allegedly teaching the claimed waterproof member. Applicants respectfully disagree. The waterproof member 68 of Plyler extends along a portion of the cables 30 of the electrical connector. According to the teachings of Plyler, when the end cap 46 is secured in place, the sealing member 68 closes the open ends of the terminal cavities 26 and encapsulates the end portions of the electrical terminals 28 and the trailing portions of the electrical cables 30. Column 5, lines 9-13. However, as seen in Figure 1, the waterproof material 68 does not "surround said connector around said electrical device and

tightly engage in all gaps in the connector around the contacts in the connection area between the contacts and the electrical device." In particular, terminal cavities 26 are closed by the waterproof material, but not completely. Therefore, the waterproof material does not tightly engage all gaps in the connector around the contacts as recited in claim 1. Thus, even if one were to be motivated to combine the teachings of Plyler and Abbott as asserted in the Office Action, the resulting device would not yield Applicants' claimed invention. In particular, there is no teaching that would have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art that the waterproof material taught by Plyler should surround the contacts 302 of Abbott. Only with improper hindsight reference to Applicants' disclosure would one of ordinary skill in the art have known how to waterproof completely the information device recited in claim 1.

Additionally, as amended, claim 1 recites that the light guide is located outside the waterproof member. There is no teaching, in either of the references cited, that would have made obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the location of the light guide claimed in claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that even if, for the sake of argument only, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the references, the combination would not have yielded the claimed invention. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the prior art of record.

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With respect to claim 5, Wu does not remedy the deficiencies noted above with respect to claim 1. Thus, claim 5 is believed to be patentable in and of itself and as it depends from and includes the recitations of claim 1, which is patentable for the reasons discussed above.

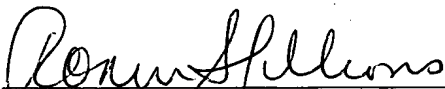
Claims 6 and 7 depend from and include the recitations of claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable in and of themselves as they depend from and include the recitations of claim 1, which is patentable for the reasons discussed above.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record. Applicants submit that the application is condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

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